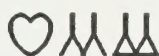
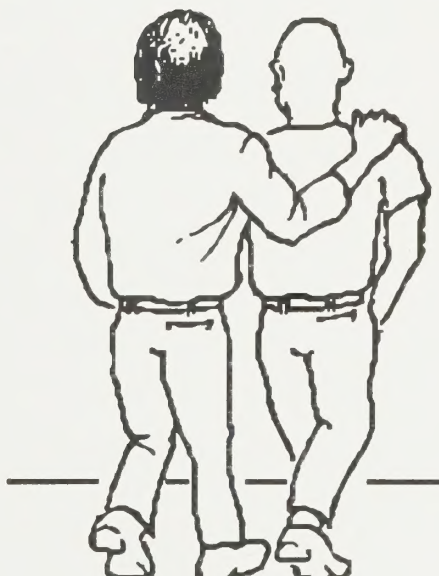


Being Sexual: An Illustrated Series On Sexuality and Relationships

HOMOSEXUALITY



By David Hingsburger and Susan Ludwig



Translated into Blissymbols by Claudia Wood

Illustrated by James F. Whittingham

BEING SEXUAL: AN ILLUSTRATED SERIES ON SEXUALITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

This 17-book series provides important sexuality education for young adults and adults. The clear, straightforward text and engaging illustrations are particularly helpful for people with developmental disability, problems with literacy, learning or communication, or anyone who uses Blissymbols. The content, philosophy and ideas expressed are those of the authors. Books were reviewed by SIECCAN Board members who are professionally involved in sex education, counselling and therapy and by consumers, parents and educators.

Blissymbolics Communication International (BCI) co-ordinated Blissymbol translation of major portions of each book in the Being Sexual series using approximately 150 recently-developed symbols for sexuality. Claudia Wood translated all books except for volume 4 on Adolescence which was translated by Ruth Harrington and Jinny Storr.

Blissymbols used herein are derived from symbols described in Semantography, original copyright © C.K. Bliss 1949. © Blissymbolics Communication International, 250 Ferrand Drive, Suite 200, Don Mills, Ontario, Canada M3C 3P2. Exclusive licensee 1982.

The series is co-authored by **Dave Hingsburger**, an author and lecturer who has extensive experience as a counsellor and therapist for people with developmental disabilities, and **Susan Ludwig**, a nurse-educator with the Sexual Health Team, York Region Public Health who specializes in sexuality education for people with developmental disabilities. The authors acknowledge the assistance and support of York Region Public Health during the writing phase of the project, the imaginative input of **Claudia Wood**, and the special contribution of **James F. Whittingham** who created over 1200 drawings to illustrate the series.

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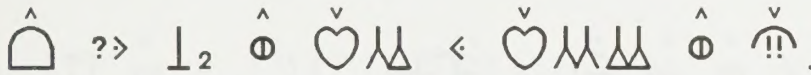
HQ21.B44 1993 306.7 C93-093380-X

Homosexuality



(combination of male homosexuality *and* female sexuality)

Some **men** and **women** love **people** of the opposite **sex**, they are called **heterosexual**. Others **love people** of the same **sex**, they are called **homosexual**. It is **important** to know if you are **heterosexual** or **homosexual**. This book is about being **homosexual**.



Knowing if you are heterosexual or homosexual is important.



This book is about homosexuality.



Love

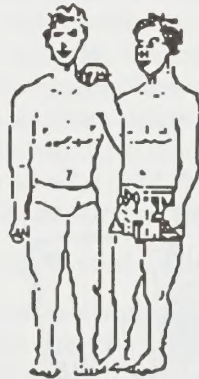


(feeling + arrow)

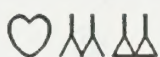
Everyone is capable of **love**. **Love** is a wonderful thing when it happens. There are many kinds of **love**. Parents and children **love** each other. Friends can **love** each other too. Sometimes **people** have very intimate **loving** relationships. This kind of **love** includes **sexual activity**.



Everybody can love, and there are many kinds of love.



Homosexuality

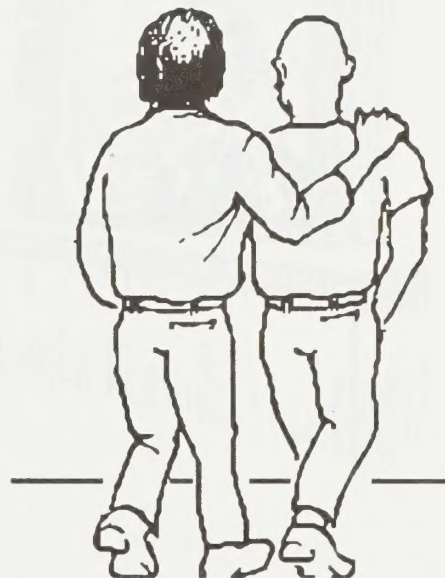


(combination of male homosexuality *and* female sexuality)

This book is about the kind of **love** that happens when two **people** of the same **sex love** each other and want to have a **sexual** relationship. This kind of **love** is called **homosexuality**. **Men** who **love men** prefer to be called **gay**. **Women** who **love women** prefer to be called **lesbian**.



This book is about lesbian (female homosexual) and gay (male homosexual) love.



Opinion



(mind + mouth)

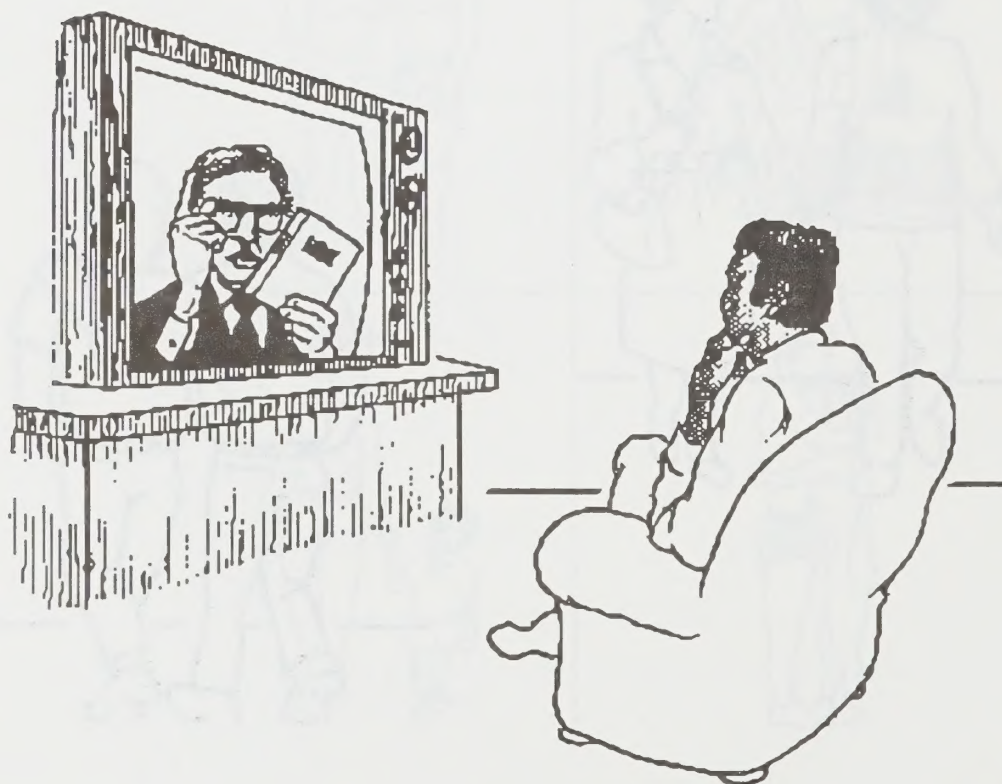
Some **people** do not approve of this kind of **love**. They think it is **wrong** and **immoral**. This is their **opinion**, and many **people** do not agree with them. This does not give them the right to call **homosexuals** names or to say they are **bad** or **immoral**. You can decide for yourself what you think and **feel**.

$$\overset{\vee}{\div} \overset{\times}{\vdash} \overset{\wedge}{\curvearrowright} \overset{\vee}{\heartsuit} \text{M} + \overset{\vee}{\heartsuit} \text{M} \rightarrow \overset{\wedge}{\heartsuit} \overset{\vee}{\heartsuit} \text{M}$$

Some people think gay and lesbian love is immoral.

$$\cdot \quad \hat{\otimes} \quad \overset{x}{\underset{3}{\downarrow}} \quad \circlearrowleft, \quad \overset{v}{\times} \quad \overset{x}{\downarrow} \quad -! \quad \rightrightarrows \quad \downarrow_2 \quad \cdot \quad \overset{\wedge}{\vee} \quad \curvearrowright \quad \downarrow_2.$$

You can decide yourself.



Homosexuality



(combination of male homosexuality *and* female sexuality)

Homosexual Behaviour



There is a big difference between **homosexuality** and **homosexual behaviour**. Many **men** and **women** have had crushes on or even some **sex** play with **people** of the same **sex**. This is a normal part of growing up. This is **homosexual behaviour**, it does not mean that they are **gay** or **lesbian**.

$$\begin{matrix} \vee \\ \times \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \times \\ \lambda \end{matrix} + \begin{matrix} \times \\ \Delta \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} ' \\ \wedge \end{matrix} \wedge \Delta ++ \begin{matrix} \times \\ \perp \end{matrix} > = \wedge \Delta .$$

Many men and women have had sexual activity with people of (the) same sex.

$$\begin{matrix} \wedge \\ \Phi \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \vee \\ \heartsuit \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \times \\ \lambda \end{matrix} \wedge \Delta \begin{matrix} \times \\ \wedge \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \times \\ \Phi \end{matrix} , \begin{matrix} \times \\ \perp \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \times \\ 3 \end{matrix} -! \begin{matrix} \times \\ \Phi \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \vee \\ \heartsuit \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \times \\ \lambda \end{matrix} < \begin{matrix} \vee \\ \heartsuit \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \times \\ \lambda \end{matrix} \Delta .$$

This is homosexual behaviour, they may not be gay or lesbian.



If you live in a place where it is **hard** to meet or to have **private** time with **people** of the opposite **sex**, it may be easier to share **sexual activity** with **people** of the same **gender**. This is very common when the **sexes** are kept apart.

?> $\rightarrow^{\wedge} \leftarrow$ + $\pm|+|$ ++ $\setminus \perp > \downarrow \wedge \hat{\Phi} \xrightarrow{v} \downarrow$,

If meeting and sharing with someone of (the) opposite sex is difficult,

$\heartsuit \wedge \wedge \wedge \wedge \wedge \hat{\Phi} \hat{\Phi} \times \downarrow \xrightarrow{v} \downarrow$.

homosexual behaviour may be easier.



Heterosexual



(heterosexuality + description indicator)

(To) Dream



(to think + to sleep + action indicator)

In order to know whether you are **homosexual** or **heterosexual**, it is **important** to know whom you **dream** about, whom you would live with together forever, if you could, whom you think about when you have **sexual activity**. If it is someone of the opposite **sex** then you are probably **heterosexual**.

?> $\perp_2$ $\hat{\curvearrowright}$ $\square$ $\odot$ > $\hat{\pm}$ $|+$ $|$ $\perp_2$ $+$ $\oplus$ $++$ $\setminus \perp$ > $\uparrow$ $\wedge$,

If you dream about sharing your life with someone of (the) opposite sex,

$\perp_2$ $\hat{\Phi}$ $\hat{\curvearrowright}$ $+$ $\hat{\curvearrowright}$ $\wedge$.

you are probably heterosexual.



Homosexual



(homosexuality + description indicator)

(To) Dream



(to think + to sleep + action indicator)

If it is someone of the same **sex** then you are probably **homosexual**.

?> $\perp_2$ $\hat{\curvearrowright}$ $\square$ $\circlearrowright$ $>$ $\pm$ $|+|$ $\perp_2+$ $\oplus$ $++$ $\setminus \perp$ $>$ $=$ $\wedge$,

If you dream about sharing your life with someone of (the) same sex,

$\perp_2$ $\hat{\phi}$ $\hat{\curvearrowright}?$ $+$ $\hat{\curvearrowright}$ $\wedge$ $\wedge$ $\wedge$.

you are probably homosexual.

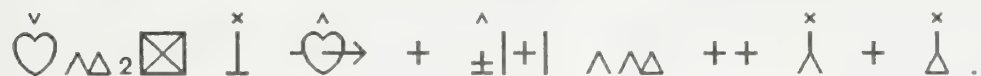


Bisexuality



(sexuality + both)

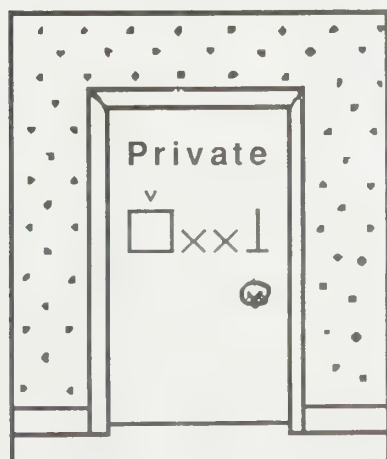
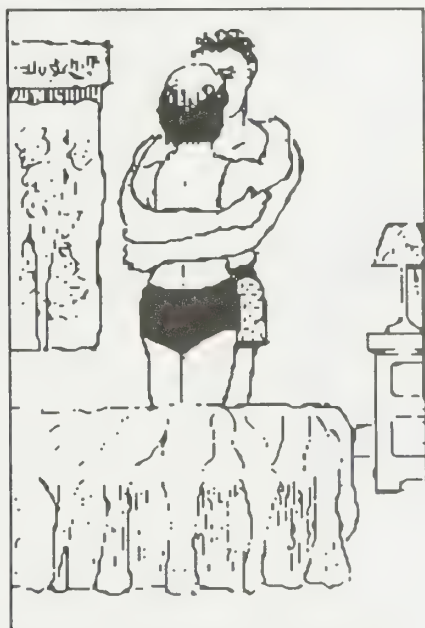
Some **people feel love** for and share **sexual activity** with both men and women. Their behaviour is called **bisexual**.



Bisexual people love and share sexual activity with men and women.



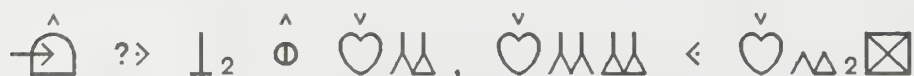
Sharing love and sexual activity with both men and women is called bisexuality.



(To) Understand

(combination of knowledge *and* into + action indicator)

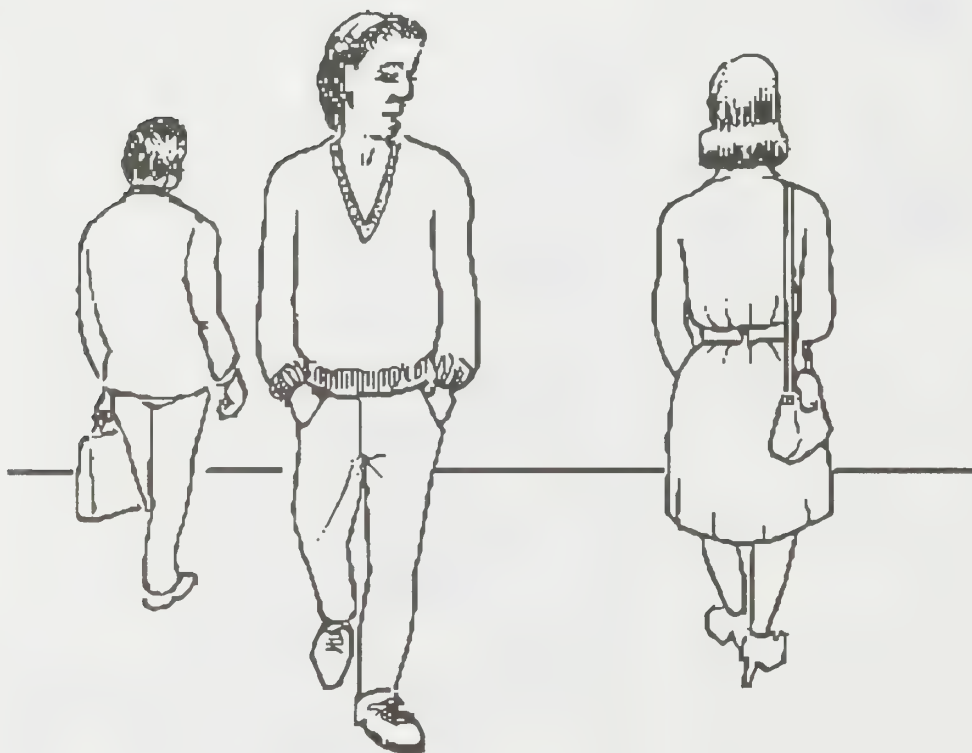
It is **important** to **understand** if you are **heterosexual**, **homosexual** or **bisexual**. This can be confusing.



Understanding if you are heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual.



is important.



Counsellor

⊥ ∘ >> 1

(person + suggestion + to help)

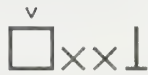
To know for sure, if you are confused, you may have to talk to a **counsellor** about your **feelings**.

⌞ ∘ ++ ⊥ ∘ >> 1 > ⊥₂+ ∘ ?> ⊥₂ ± ⌞^x?

Important - talk with (a) counsellor about your feelings if you have doubts.



Private



(to close + public + description indicator)

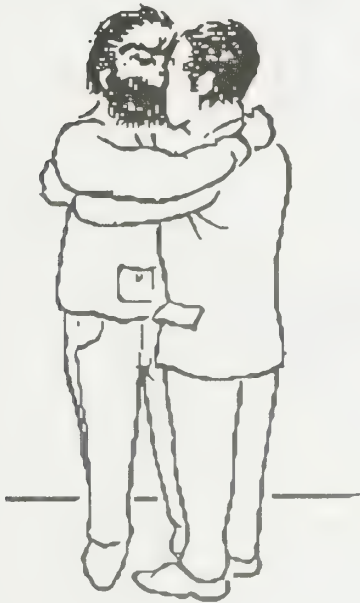
Some **gay** and **lesbian people** have been victims of violence. Holding hands and kissing in public, which you may see **heterosexuals** do, can **upset** some **people**. Choosing to show feelings of **love privately**, does not mean that they are shameful or **wrong**. Many **heterosexuals choose** to show their **love privately** too.



Some people may want to hurt gay men and lesbian women.



You may choose to share homosexual feelings privately.



Many **people** are **homosexual**. **Gay** men and **lesbian** women do not necessarily look or talk differently from other **people**. Sometimes on TV the actors do, but most **homosexuals** do not. Some of the **people** you know are probably **gay**, even though they may not tell you.

$\overset{\vee}{\times}$ $\overset{\times}{\perp}$ $\overset{\hat{}}{\phi}$ $\overset{\vee}{\heartsuit}$ M W Z $\overset{\times}{\perp}_3$ $-!$ $\overset{\hat{}}{\circ}$ $\overset{\times}{\perp}_2$.

Many people are homosexual although they do not tell others.



Gay and **lesbian people** do not think there is anything **wrong** with **loving people** of the same **sex**. They think it is OK even if there are still some **people** who are **upset** by this form of **love**.

$\heartsuit \text{ M } \text{X} + \heartsuit \text{ M } \text{X} - \hat{\text{A}} \heartsuit \text{ M } \text{M} - \heartsuit \rightarrow \hat{\Phi} \hat{\text{A}}!$

Gay men and lesbians do not think homosexual love is wrong,

$\{ \} \heartsuit \text{ M } \text{M} - \heartsuit \rightarrow \heartsuit \uparrow \downarrow \div \text{I}.$

although homosexual love upsets some people.



Laws



(mind + to weigh + book + plural indicator)

In some places there are **laws** against **homosexual behaviour**. It is **important** to know this, especially if you engage in this form of **sexual activity**. Many **people** consider these **laws** unfair.



Important - some places have laws against homosexual behaviour.



Almost every country has **gay and lesbian groups** that fight these kinds of **laws**. In Denmark **gay** and **lesbian people** can even get married now.

♡♂ + ♡♂ × ♂ □ × ♂ ♂ × ♂ ♂

Gay and lesbian groups in many countries fight these laws.

× ♡♂ ♂ + ♡♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂

Now gay men and lesbian women can marry in Denmark.



Difficult



(forward + reference line that has been broken + description indicator)

Even so, it is **difficult** for **homosexuals** to tell others that they are **gay** or **lesbian**, because some **people** might try to **punish** them or force them to change. Their anger can be scary, but strong emotions do not make them right.

$\hat{\circ} \mid_2^{\times} \hat{\oplus} \rightarrow_1^{\vee} \gg \hat{\heartsuit} \wedge \lambda^{\times} + \hat{\heartsuit} \Delta \Delta^{\times} \Delta,$

Telling others is difficult for gay men and lesbians,

$\triangleright? \div \perp^{\times} \rightarrow_1^? \rightarrow_1^{\vee} \hat{\uparrow} \ll \wedge \perp_3^{\times} < \hat{\nabla} \perp_3^{\times} \hat{\oplus}.$

because some people may try to punish them or force them to change.



Gay and Lesbian Organizations

$$\heartsuit \text{M} + \heartsuit \text{M} \times \text{I}$$

In large cities there are many **gay** and **lesbian organizations** such as sporting leagues, discussion **groups**, social **groups**, bars and dance clubs. The **telephone operator** will help **people** contact the distress phone line in their area to find these **groups**. Distress phone lines often provide community information.

$$\square \text{I} \times \times \triangle \dots < \hat{\phi} \times \heartsuit \text{M} + \heartsuit \text{M} \times \text{I}.$$

In large cities there are many gay and lesbian organizations.

$$\text{I} \phi \angle \cdot \hat{\vee} \hat{\text{A}} \text{I} \hat{\text{I}} \hat{\odot} \text{E} \text{I}_3.$$

(The) telephone operator can help people to find them.



Church



(building + God)

Counselling

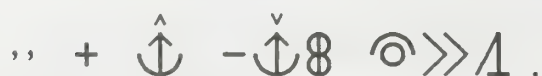


(suggestion + to help)

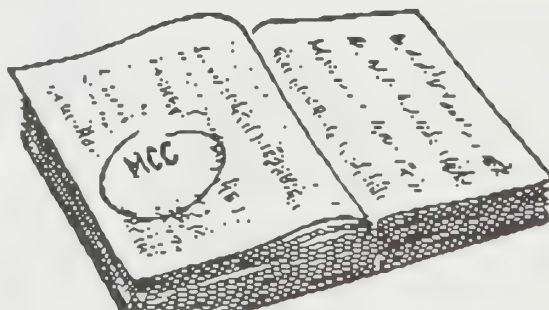
There is a world-wide **gay church**. It is called the United Fellowship of Metropolitan Community **Churches**. If there is one in your area it may be listed as MCC. This **church** will provide free **counselling**.



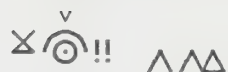
There is (a) world-wide church for gay men and lesbians



that also gives free counselling.



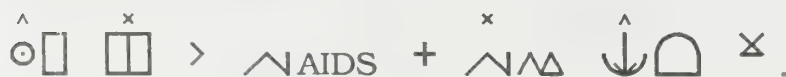
Safer Sex



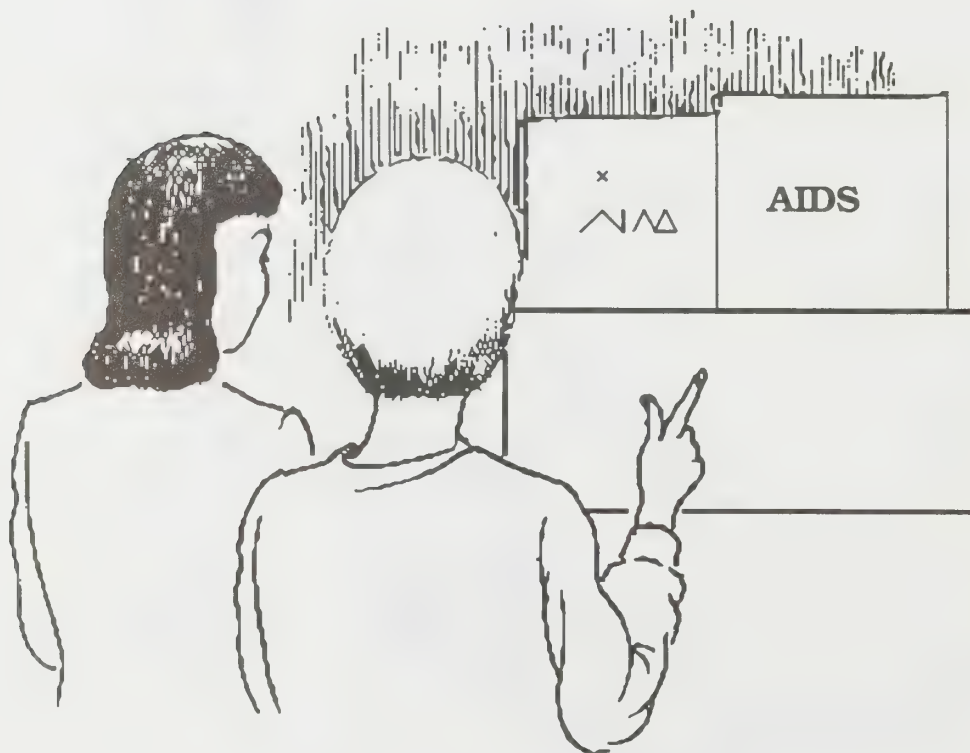
One way to prevent the disease is to practice **safer sex**. **Safer sex** is everyone's responsibility. Read the books about **AIDS** and **sexually transmitted diseases** to learn more.



Safer sex is for everyone.



Read (the) books about AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases to learn more.



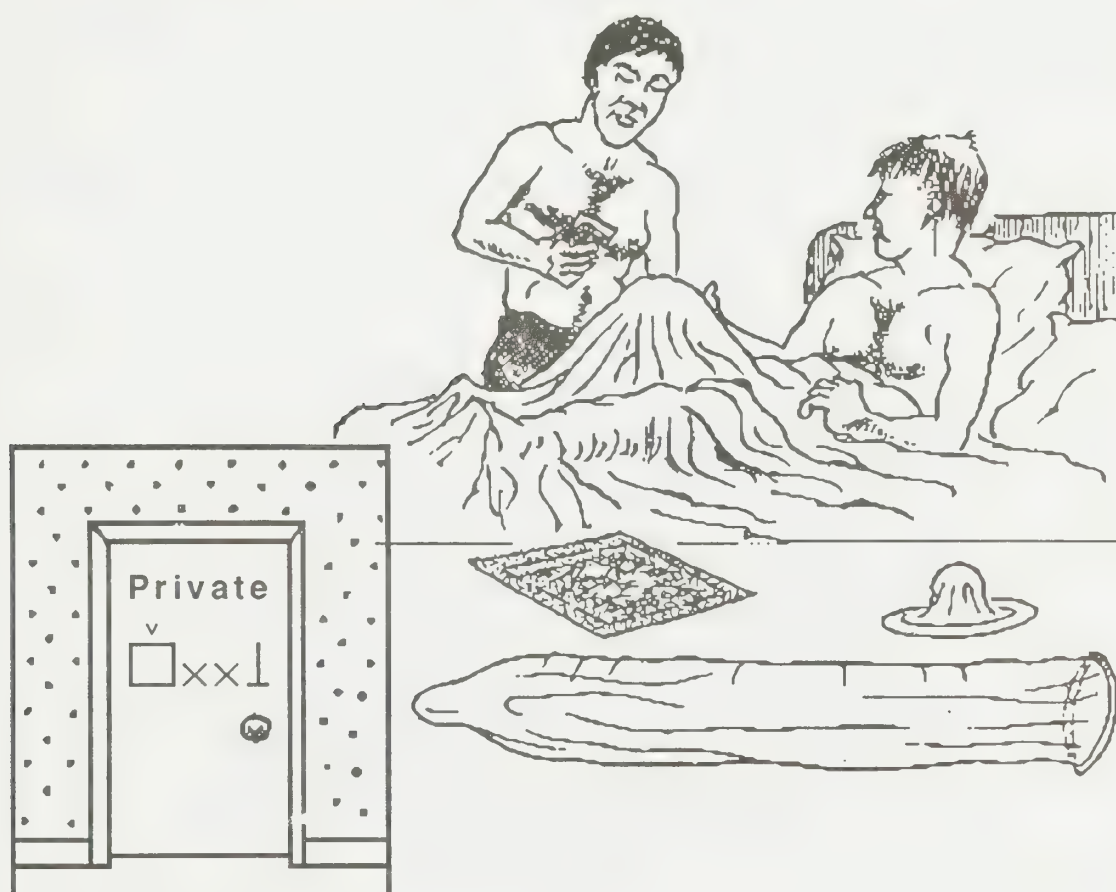
The nice thing about **safer sex** is that it is a way of showing **love** for a partner. Practicing **safer sex** is one way **AIDS** and other **sexually transmitted diseases** can be prevented.

⊗^v⊙!! ∧∧Δ Δ̂⊙ -♡→ >1 |₂ .

Safer sex shows love toward another person.

⊗^v⊙!! ∧∧Δ Δ̂ →| AIDS + ⊕^v ×^x∧∧Δ .

Safer sex helps to stop AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.



A.I.D.S

^AIDS
(illness + AIDS)

Homosexuality does not cause **AIDS**. **AIDS** is not **punishment** for **loving** **people** of the same **sex**.

♡ ♢ ♣ -! ⬆ ^AIDS.

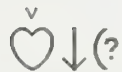
Homosexuality does not cause AIDS.

^AIDS ⬆ -! ⬆ « ^ ⬆ ♡ ♢ ♣.

AIDS is not punishment for homosexuality.

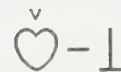


Scared



(sad + future + question mark + description indicator)

Lonely



(feeling + minus + person + description indicator)

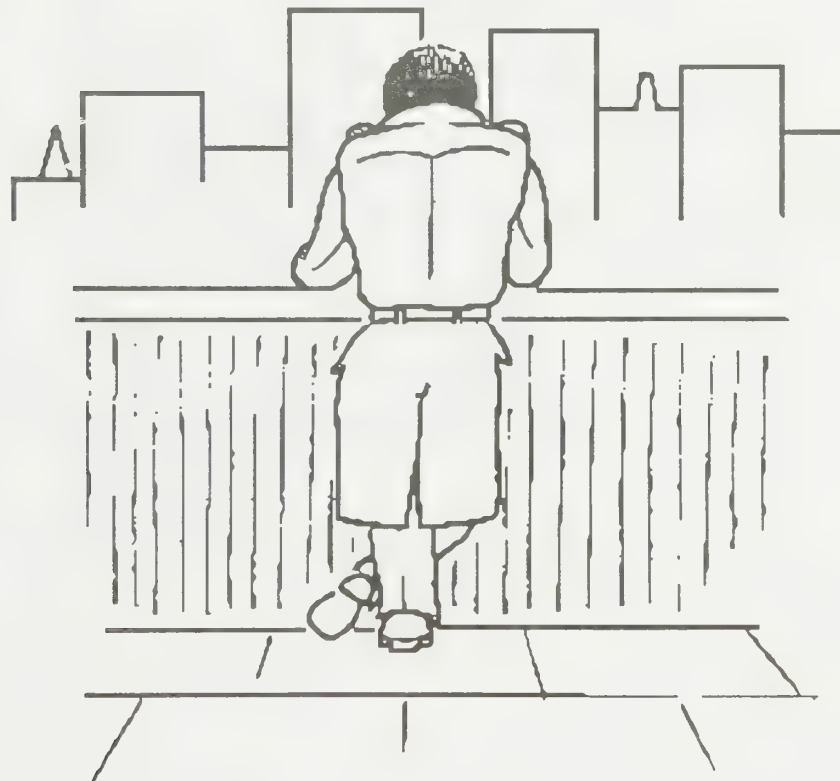
Fear of **AIDS** and some **people's dislike** of **homosexuality**, sometimes make it more **difficult** for **homosexual men** and **women** to form relationships. They may **feel scared** and **lonely**.

$\hat{\heartsuit} \downarrow (?) > \wedge_{\text{AIDS}} + \div \perp_+ \heartsuit - ! > \heartsuit \wedge \Delta$,

Fear of AIDS and some people's dislike of homosexuality,

$\div \odot \hat{\Delta} \heartsuit \wedge \checkmark + \heartsuit \Delta \checkmark \hat{\heartsuit} \heartsuit \downarrow (?) + \heartsuit - \perp$.

sometimes cause homosexual men and women to feel scared and lonely.



(To) Understand



(combination of knowledge *and* into + action indicator)

But it is not good to stay **alone** and **afraid**. There are **people** who **understand** and can help **gay men** and **lesbians** learn to accept themselves.



Important - some people can help gay men and lesbians to understand themselves.



Counsellor

$$1 \odot \gg 1$$

(person + suggestion + to help)

One way to find them is by meeting other **gay** or **lesbian people** or by getting information from a **counsellor**.

$$\heartsuit \wedge \lambda + \heartsuit \wedge \lambda \triangleleft 1 \odot \gg 1 \cdot \hat{\vee} \hat{\Delta}.$$

Gay men and women or (a) counsellor can help.

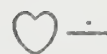


Symbols

$$I = \sum^x$$

(similar to + Blissymbol + plural indicator)

Pride

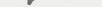


(feeling + above)

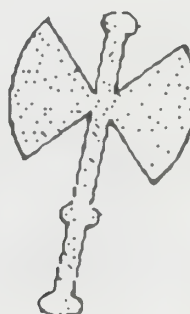
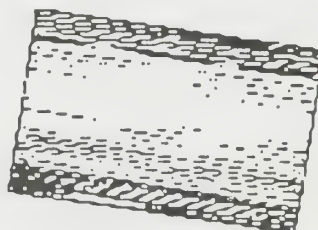
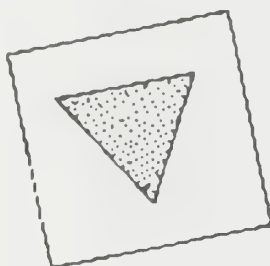
The **gay** and **lesbian** community has created some **symbols** that they wear to show their **pride** and to communicate their **homosexuality** to other **gay people**. Some of these are a pink triangle, a rainbow flag, a lambda and interlocking **gender** symbols.

$$\begin{array}{c} \vee \\ \heartsuit \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \vee \\ \Delta \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \times \\ \dot{\Delta} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \vee \\ \heartsuit \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \vee \\ \Delta \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \times \\ \dot{\Delta} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \wedge \\ \pm \end{array} = \sum^{\times} \begin{array}{c} \wedge \\ \otimes \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \times \\ \dot{\Delta} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \times \\ \dot{\Delta} \end{array}$$

Lesbians and gay men have symbols to identify themselves

+ 

and to show their pride.



Lesbian and Gay Pride Day



(day + pride + homosexuality/contraction)

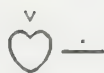
Once a year there is a **Lesbian and Gay Pride Day**. This started in the United States and now is celebrated in other countries too. This is the last Sunday of June.

 $\overset{\vee}{1}_1. \quad \Omega_1 \quad D_6 \quad \overset{\wedge}{\Phi} \quad \Omega \heartsuit \div \text{M M}$

(The) last Sunday (in) June is Lesbian and Gay Pride Day.

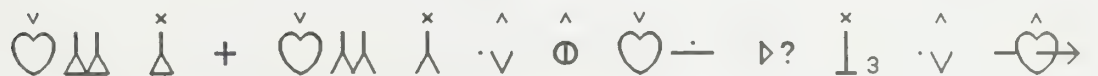
— JUNE —						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<u>27</u>	28	29	30			

Proud



(feeling + above + description indicator)

Homosexuals can be **proud**. The **fact** that one can **love** another is something to celebrate because that is what makes us full human beings.



Lesbians and gay men can be proud because they can love.



Glossary of Key Words and Blissymbols

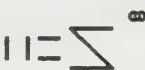
afraid	scared	(sad + future + question mark + description indicator: sad about the future because of its uncertainties)	
alone		(to be + 1 + description indicator: to be only one)	
bad	see immoral		
behaviour		(action + creature + thing indicator: actions of a living being)	
church		(building + God: building devoted to the worship of God)	
counselling		(suggestion + to help)	
counsellor		(person + suggestion + to help: person who makes suggestions in order to help)	
difficult	hard	(forward + reference line that has been broken + description indicator)	
dislike		(feeling + negative)	
dream (to)		(to think + to sleep + action indicator)	
fact		(mind + real: something that one thinks is real)	
feel (to)		(feeling + action indicator)	
feeling	sensation	(symbol is the familiar heart shape: traditionally one's feelings are supposed to come from the heart, also used to represent sensation)	
gay	see homosexual (male)		
gender	sex	(male + female: having either a male or female gender)	

group	organization	(group of + person: a number of people considered together)	× ⊥
hard	see difficult		
heterosexual		(heterosexuality + description indicator)	♡ 人
heterosexuality		(sexuality [contraction] + man + woman: intimate sexual relationship between a man and a woman)	♡ 人
homosexual (female)	lesbian	(homosexuality (female) + description indicator)	♡ 人
homosexual (male)	gay	(homosexuality (male) + description indicator)	♡ 人
homosexuality (female)		(sexuality [contraction] + woman + woman: intimate sexual relationship between women)	♡ 人
homosexuality (male)		(sexuality [contraction] + man + man: intimate sexual relationship between men)	♡ 人
hurt (to)	injure (to)	(to cause + pain + action indicator)	△ ♡ ~
immoral	bad, wrong	(conscience + negative + description indicator: morally wrong or bad)	♡ !
important		(mind + two intensity symbols + description indicator: of intense interest)	♡ !!
lesbian	see homosexual (female)		
lonely		(feeling + minus + person + description indicator: feeling of being without companionship)	♡ - ⊥
love		(feeling + arrow: feeling as if an arrow is piercing one's heart)	♡ →
man		(combination of person <i>and</i> male. The symbol can also be seen as a pictograph, a stick figure of a man wearing trousers with his legs apart.)	人

opinion		(mind + mouth: expression of what one thinks)	
organization		(group of + person: a number of people considered together) WORD SYNONYM for <i>group</i>	
people		(person + plural indicator)	
person		(the symbol suggests a human being standing, with feet turned out)	
pride		(feeling + above + description indicator)	
private	privately	(to close + public + description indicator)	
privately	see private		
proud		(feeling + above + description indicator)	
safer		(more + combination of to observe <i>and</i> attention + description indicator)	
scared	see afraid		
sexual		(gender + description indicator)	
understand (to)		(combination of knowledge <i>and</i> into + action indicator: to enter into one's store of knowledge)	
upset		(feeling + up and down + description indicator: having unsettled feelings)	
woman		(a combination of person <i>and</i> female. The symbol can also be seen as a pictograph, a stick figure of a woman wearing a skirt.) also female	
wrong	see immoral		

Combined Symbol Glossary

The following symbols would normally be enclosed within combine indicators to show that they are not part of the Standard Blissymbol Vocabulary. Combine indicators were omitted within Blissymbol translations or summaries for esthetic reasons and to save space.

AIDS	(illness + AIDS)	
bisexuality	(feeling + sexual + both)	
free	(without + to pay + description indicator)	
homosexual	(homosexuality + description indicator)	
homosexuality	(combination of male homosexuality <i>and</i> female sexuality)	
law	(mind + to weigh + book)	
Lesbian and Gay Pride Day	(day + proud + homosexuality [contraction])	
punishment	(to give + against + action: given to prevent an action)	
sexual activity	(activity + sexual)	
sexually transmitted disease	(sickness + sexual)	
symbol	(similar to + Blissymbol)	
telephone operator	(person + telephone)	

Being Sexual: an illustrated series on sexuality and relationships

1 Relationships. Sexuality is explored in the context of relationships and validated as an important part of one's self-esteem. Co-authored by Claudia Wood, educator and Blissymbols Systems Coordinator. (31 pages)

2 A Woman's Body. Describes anatomy, how a woman's body functions sexually, and other aspects of being a woman. Issues of privacy and personal autonomy are introduced here and reinforced throughout the series. (47 pages)

3 A Man's Body. Describes anatomy, how a man's body functions sexually, and other aspects of being a man. (49 pages)

4 Adolescence. Describes the changes of puberty and adolescence and their influence on sexuality. (31 pages)

5 Male Masturbation. Describes masturbation and validates this as a choice for any man. Discusses fantasy as an aspect masturbation. (38 pages)

6 Female Masturbation. Describes masturbation and validates this as a sexual choice for any woman. (19 pages)

7 Heterosexual Intercourse. Describes sexual intercourse including sexual responsibility and mutual pleasuring. (25 pages)

8 Human Reproduction. Describes reproduction from fertilization to birth. Includes premature birth, Caesarian section, miscarriage and abortion. (25 pages)

9 Birth Control. Describes birth control options and suggests additional sources of information on contraception. (33 pages)

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13 AIDS. Explains how Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is transmitted and how it develops. Defines "safer sex". (27 pages)

14 Sexual Self Advocacy. Discusses the right to sexual expression. Suggests how people in residential settings might influence policies that guarantee that right. (25 pages)

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16 Sexuality and Aging. Describes how sexuality and sexual expression may be affected by aging. (25 pages)

17 Teaching Manual. Outlines the philosophy and potential uses of the series. Explains the Blissymbols developed for the series. (18 pages)

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